

JUNE CALENDAR

Sat June 3	6:00pm - 7:30pm	South Area Prayer - Aleyamma & Idicula Mathews, Orange
Sun June 4	9:30am - 11:30am	Pentecost Combined Service - GGUMC; Please Wear Red
Tue June 6	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study - Sherly & Saji Baby, Cerritos
Thu June 8	9:00pm - 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538#
Sat June 10	6:00pm - 7:30pm	West Area Prayer - Moni & Prasad Varghese, Buena Park
Sun June 11	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (Malayalam) - GGUMC
Tue June 13	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study - Merry & Mathew Thomas, Cypress
Wed June 14	8:30pm - 9:30pm	Western Regional Tele-prayer Conference - 712-432-1500 638599#
Thu June 15	9:00pm - 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538#
Sat June 17	6:00pm - 8:00pm	East Area Prayer - Susan & Sunil Thomas, Anaheim Hills
Sun June 18	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC; Father's Day Celebration
Sun June 18	5:30pm - 6:30pm	Sevika Sangham Monthly Meeting & Fellowship - GGUMC, Room 20
Tue June 20	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study - Ann & Isaac George, Buena Park
Thu June 22	9:00pm - 10:00pm	Weekly Tele-prayer conference - (712) 432-1500; 969538#
Sun June 25	3:00pm - 5:00pm	Holy Communion Service (English) - GGUMC
Sun June 25	5:00pm - 6:00pm	Youth Fellowship Meeting - GGUMC
Sun June 25	5:00pm - 5:30pm	Sevika Sangham; Mary's Kitchen Outreach - GGUMC, Room 20
Tue June 27	7:00pm - 9:00pm	Parish Mission Bible Study - Cini & Mathew Philip, Norwalk

Mother's Day Celebration





Lighthouse

A monthly reflection of Horeb Mar Thoma Church, Los Angeles • 12741 Main Street • Garden Grove, CA 92840

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June 2017



Vicar's Message Rev. Binu P. Thomas

Dear Members in Christ,

We are thankful to God for giving us the opportunity to do His ministry through our great church. God chose His people as a worshipping community where ever they are. As part of His ministry we are moving from familiar to unfamiliar and known to unknown places for spreading the meditation and Word of God. Prayer is very important in our life. Prayer is the communication between God and fellow beings in the universe. Consider Abraham, Moses and Daniel. Abraham was called the friend of God, Moses was called His companion and Daniel was considered a man of preciousness.

We must pray to God because God has bestowed us with all the gifts we possess. We must pray and thank Him for all those favors. He has given us innumerable gifts: our life, our beautiful earth, the sun, the moon and the stars. All are the wonderful gifts given by God. Prayer is a must, to think and show our gratitude to God for all the gifts he has bestowed upon us. God is very kind and He showers His blessings equally on all, whether we pray or do not pray to Him. He has gifted us many things free of cost. He is a great forgiver. He does not punish us for our sins. He forgives our sins committed unknowingly. We remember Him and pray to Him to express our thanks. Prayer can help anyone who is need of healing from sickness, diseases or problems that interfere with daily lives. Prayer can not only help heal sickness and diseases but it can also help people heal problems that go on in daily life. Prayer is out there to help people live their lives better and more comfortably.

Prayer is like talking to God as a close friend or loving father. When we pray to God, we feel as if God is present with us.

June 4, 2017 - Pentecost Combined Service at GGUMC at 9:30am. PLEASE WEAR RED!

We can talk to him and place our problems before Him. We beg Him for His blessings. When God is with us, who can cause any harm to us? Prayer means trust in God. It gives us courage and confidence. Prayer binds us with God and brings us nearer to Him. Prayer is a must for everyone. We cannot do anything without prayer than a man can dream of. Prayer is a powerful weapon.

According to the Prayer of Jesus, Unity is a key. It is what will make the world realize who He is and why He came. It will testify about Him and cause people to accept His love. Many feel we are in the generation where the gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in the whole world for a witness to all the nations, and then the end shall come. Mathew 24:14.

The prayer of righteous man is powerful and effective. Elijah was a man just like that. He prayed earnestly that it would not rain, and it did not rain on the land for three and half years. Again he prayed, and heavens gave rain, and the earth produced its crops. God most definitely listens to prayers, answers prayers, and moves in response to prayers. God always listens to our prayers. We are the community blessed by God. We remember and thank our Larry Achen, family and their service. Pray to God continually to bless them to do His ministry fruitfully. Dear great Horeb, let us together work hard for His kingdom and the development of our church. May God bless you all.

With love and prayers,

Binuachen, Elizabeth, Angelina, Agnes



Single Christian Female

By Dr. Reena Thomas

I'm 38, Malayalee, and unmarried. These facts make me an anomaly, slightly different than the norm. It is a path I did not expect to take, and it is certainly a path I never expected God wanted me to take. As an Indian-American (I was born and raised in New York), I will not go into the difficulties of navigating the terrains of how Americans define love and marriage, how Mar Thomites define love and marriage, and how American Christians define love and marriage. I will just say that like everyone else in the world, I thought my life would follow the pattern I witnessed around me: college, job, marriage, and children. Because this pattern has (seemingly) broken apart or re-

mains incomplete, it can be difficult to understand why God has designed different plans for me. If marriage is a blessing, what exactly is singlehood?

What I have come to slowly understand, however, over the many years, is that God expresses His love for His children perfectly whether or not life unfolds according to a "perfect" pattern or plan. Of course, the truth is God has designed different plans for everyone, and there is no perfect pattern of life other than living a sanctified one. It has taken me a long time to realize that the absence of marriage does not mean the absence of God's love and provisions for me. We are "sought after" (Isaiah 62:12), "precious and honored in [God's] sight" (Isaiah 43:4), and every one of our "steps ... are ordered by the Lord" (Psalm 37:23). Recently, someone urged me to get married soon and cautioned me: there will be a time when I won't be able to rely on anyone. Without a family of my own, I will have no one to take care of me. I won't lie. These are very real fears. Yet, God's response to these anxieties has not been "Your future husband will take care of you". His answer has always been "Me. I will take care of you."

I live in this assurance. Perhaps I am naïve. I continue to be restless, learning to be content in any situation, learning to be content in my singleness. Saddleback Church is one of the few churches to have a Singles Ministry. I attended a morning Silence and Solitude Retreat for singles where the goal was to commune with God---silently and privately. When I returned, my confused brother kept asking, "Wait. There wasn't time to *socialize*? You didn't *meet* anyone?" It does seem odd that a retreat for singles would not focus on meeting anyone, and my brother voices what he thought was the true goal of the retreat. His hope and expectations are natural. Of course, the true goal of the retreat was achieved. Watching the water's shimmering reflection on the nearby palm trees, I felt the love and goodness of God, and I knew, if only for that moment, I would never be abandoned by a Father who loves so much. As a single woman, I can forget such a simple truth, but what a blessing to remember and what a knowledge to hold onto always.



Youth Fellowship Game Night



Praise God Forever

By Jocelyn Mathew

For God is loving, He is powerful,
Forever am joyful.
For God is caring, He is faithful,
Forever am thankful.
For God is gracious, He is merciful,
Forever am grateful.



Role Models

By Sanoj Varghese

I consider myself blessed to be a part of the Youth Fellowship at Horeb Mar Thoma Church, LA. We are a committed group of youngsters, who are an integral part of this dynamic parish.

The question I often ask myself is "As a child of God, what do I portray to the world outside?"

In our daily lives, we come across many situations when our character is at stake. How do we react on such occasions?

A very inspiring story comes to my mind.

Several years ago, an out-of-state preacher accepted a call to a church in Houston, Texas.

Some weeks after he arrived, he had an occasion to ride the bus from his home to the downtown area.

When he sat down, he discovered that the driver had accidentally given him a quarter too much change. As he was considering on what he should do, he thought to himself, 'You'd better give the quarter back. It would be wrong to keep it.' Then he thought, 'Oh, forget it, it's only a quarter. Who would worry about this little amount?'

'Anyway, the bus company gets too much fare; they will never miss it. I should just accept it as a gift from God and keep quiet.'

When his stop came, he paused momentarily at the door, and then he handed the quarter to the driver and said, 'Here, you gave me too much change.'

The driver, with a smile, replied, 'Aren't you the new preacher in town? I have been thinking a lot lately about going somewhere to worship. I just wanted to see what you would do if I gave you too much change. I'll see you at church on Sunday.'

When the preacher stepped off of the bus, he literally grabbed the nearest light pole, held on, and said, 'Oh God, I almost sold your Son for a quarter.'

This is a really scary example of how much people watch us as Christians and will put us to the test!

Our lives are the only Bible some people will ever read.

Always be on guard — and remember — you carry the name of Christ on your shoulders when you call yourself 'Christian'.

Watch your **thoughts**; they become **words**.
Watch your **words**; they become **actions**.
Watch your **actions**; they become **habits**.
Watch your **habits**; they become **character**.
Watch your **character**; it becomes your **destiny**.



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